



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

News Release

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SEATTLE MAN SENTENCED TO 51 MONTHS FOR SMUGGLING ARMS FROM VIETNAM

Longtime fugitive admitted smuggling 85 machine guns and 4 grenade launchers in 1994

SAN FRANCISCO – A Seattle man has been sentenced to 51 months in prison for smuggling 85 machine guns and 4 grenade launchers into San Francisco from Vietnam in 1994. Daniel Edward Rogers, 57, was sentenced late yesterday by a U.S. District Judge in San Francisco.

The former Jefferson County Sheriff's Deputy in Washington State pleaded guilty to the charges in April. Rogers was originally indicted by a federal grand jury in 1995, as a result of an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

After learning of the charges, Rogers remained in Southeast Asia, where he lived as a fugitive for nine years until Thai immigration authorities detained him last year for traveling on a revoked United States passport. Subsequently, ICE agents escorted Rogers out of Thailand and arrested him upon his return to the United States.

"ICE is working with its law enforcement counterparts around the globe to ensure that the world's international borders are not barriers to bringing fugitives to justice," said Charles DeMore, special agent-in-charge for ICE investigations in San Francisco. "Cases like this are an ICE enforcement priority because arms traffickers jeopardize the safety of all Americans, flooding our communities with illegal weapons which end up in the hands of criminals and others bent on doing us harm."

In his April guilty plea, Rogers admitted to acquiring machine guns, grenade launchers, and pistols in Vietnam and arranging for their shipment to San Francisco on two Air France airline flights in 1994. The weapons were sold to an undercover agent from the former United States Customs Service now ICE. Rogers and a co-conspirator used the name of a foreign entity, A.T. Ltd., in the transaction.

"Mr. Rogers, a former law enforcement officer, was apprehended and brought to justice for smuggling over 100 machine guns, grenade launchers and pistols into the United States," said United States Attorney Kevin V. Ryan. "Due to the cooperation between the Thai authorities and federal law enforcement, Rogers is now being held accountable for his actions. I want to thank the Thai authorities and federal law enforcement for their tenacity and perseverance."

“I would like to thank our investigation partner ICE,” said Karl Anglin, assistant special agent-in-charge of the ATF. “This investigation stopped a conspiracy to deliver extremely dangerous weapons that could have been used in crimes of violence all across the country.”

On May 14, 1994, Rogers smuggled the following weapons to San Francisco:

- one M-79 grenade launcher
- four AK-47 machine guns
- six M-16 machine guns
- five Thompson machines guns, and;
- ten pistols

On August 28, 1994, Roger smuggled the following weapons to San Francisco:

- three M-79 grenade launchers
- eleven M-3 machine guns
- fifteen Thompson machine guns
- twenty-two M-16 machine guns
- twenty AK-47 machine guns
- two M-60 machine guns
- eighteen pistols

A federal grand jury returned a superseding indictment against Rogers in April 2004, charging him with 10 counts of possession and transfer of machine guns, possession of unregistered machine guns and destructive devices (grenade launchers), importation contrary to law, engaging in the business of importing firearms without a license, transportation of machine guns and destructive devices in foreign commerce without a license, and conspiracy to commit these acts.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.